

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A setting tool for driving fastening elements in a constructional component, comprising:

a piston guide (12) defining a guide space (11) having a front region (11.1) and a rear region (11.2);

a drive piston (13) displaceable in the guide space (11) by propellant gases generated by a propellant charge from an initial position (40) thereof in the rear region (11.2) of the guide space (11) to an end position (41) in the front region (11.) of the guide space;

a storage space (20) for the propellant gases;

a first valve (23) for connecting the storage space (20) with the rear region (11.2) of the guide space (11); and

a second, electronically controlled valve (24) arranged at an outlet (21) of the storage space (20) for a time-delayed connection of the storage space (20) with the front region (11.) of the guide space (11).

2. A setting tool according to claim 1, comprising means for communicating to the electronically controlled valve (24) an opening signal time-delayed with respect to a signal for actuating an ignition process of the propellant charge.

3. A setting tool according to claim 2, wherein the communicating means comprises control means (28) for generating the time-delayed opening signal.

4. A setting tool according to claim 2, further comprising an actuation switch (17) for actuating the ignition process, and wherein the communicating means comprises an electronic time switch connected with the actuation switch (17) and the electronically controlled valve (24) for generating the time-delayed opening signal in response to the actuation of the actuation switch (17).

5. A setting tool according to claim 1, further comprising a passage (33) connected with the storage space (20) for controlling power of the setting tool.

6. A setting tool according to claim 1, further comprising sensor means (29) arranged in the piston guide (12) for determining at least one of drive piston position and drive piston speed, and means for communicating to the electronically controlled valve (24) time-delayed opening signal in response to a signal generated by the sensor means (29).

7. A setting tool according to claim 6, wherein the communicating means comprises control means (28) connected with the sensor means (29) and the electronically controlled valve (24) for generating the time-delayed opening signal in response to the signal generated by the sensor means (29) and for communicating the time-delayed opening signal to the electronically controlled valve.

8. A setting tool according to claim 1, further comprising an exhaust channel (39) surrounding, at least partially, the storage space (20).